MRAC

I had this started ——

K9AA — is now a silent key as Aldrich Kames, my Uncle, died Dec. 16, 1994 — age 89.

He had a long career in radio — it was his life.

Cordially,

Mary Belle Potter

Time To Remember
by
Jim WB9LNU

Aldrich Carl (Al) Krones, K9AA, was known to many members of MRAC as a mild mannered and delightful person.

Al was first licensed as 9ELD in 1923, while still in High School. He had a Second Grade Amateur License which has a code efficiency rating of 10 words per minute. In 1926 he received his Radio Operator, Commercial First Class, Radio Telegraph License. He was the radio operator on a passenger ship on the Great Lakes and the Santa Tecla salt water ship between New Orleans and the west coast of South America. The radio's were half kilowatt spark transmitters.

In 1927 Al was one of the operators at the Journal Co. station WHAD. In 1928 he went to the Universal Wireless Co. and built station WNDL in the penthouse of the Schroeder Hotel (now the Marc Plaza). Universal Wireless was a million dollar company. It's intent was to compete with Western Union and Postal Telegraph. The transmitter was 21 feet long and had 5 motor generators. Universal folded in 1929. Al then became Chief Engineer at WTMJ radio. In 1931 he quit WTMJ and joined the Milwaukee Police Dept., he served for 44 years and retired in 1976 at age 70.

Al had a Extra class license K9AA and 5 previous calls. 9ELD in 1921, 8AIE in 1926, 9EVE the WTMJ Journal station; a 250 watt Hartley and a 1 kilowatt Western Electric 6A on 1020KC., W9UIT in 1941 and W9CM in 1976. He was a pioneer member of the South Side Radio Amateurs Club, a life member of MRAC (joined in 1924) and a life member of the QCWA. Al's first station was a 50 watt Hartley osc. vacuum tube transmitter with a 4 wire flat top antenna at 60 feet. During WW2 he operated unit #14, WMFI of the FCC official War Emergency Service.

Al served as a Director on MRAC's Board in 1928, 1929, 1937. 1938, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1946 and 1947. He became a silent key in 1994.

I wish to give special thanks to the family and friends of Al for their contribution of his scrap books and records for MRAC's club history files. And to George Halper W9SUF for relaying all the information to us.

Jim WB9LNU